

APPENDIX 1

Gulf of Mexico Program Objectives and Subobjectives Fiscal Year 2005

Objective 1: By 2009, restore water and habitat quality in 20% of the impaired segments in the 12 priority coastal areas (i.e., 71 of the 354 segments) to levels that meet state water quality standards.

Subobjective

1(A): By 2009, leveraged program project efforts will be undertaken to restore beneficial uses in the priority impaired segments identified in the 12 priority coastal areas.

Objective 2: Protect public health by assisting Gulf States and coastal communities to provide advisories concerning contaminated seafood and early warnings of harmful algal blooms.

Subobjectives

2(A): Reduce the rate of shellfish-borne *Vibrio vulnificus* illnesses caused by consumption of commercially-harvested raw or undercooked oysters by 60% on average for 2007 and 2008.

2(B): Assist the Gulf States, in cooperation with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, in developing and implementing a scientifically sound, Gulfwide monitoring program for total mercury/methylmercury levels in fish tissue from recreationally and commercially important species; and in developing compatible fish consumption advisories and public outreach information regarding the health effects of methylmercury.

2(C): Initiate implementation of a regional early-warning system to support State and coastal community efforts to manage harmful algal blooms (HABs).

Objective 3: By 2009, the GMP will restore, enhance, or protect important coastal and marine habitats that are essential to the recreational and commercial fisheries of the Gulf, including the prevention and control of invasive aquatic species in U.S. areas of the Gulf by 20,000 acres.

Subobjectives

3(A): Restore, enhance, or protect 2,400 acres each year between 2002 and 2009.

3(B): Assist in the implementation of Louisiana's Coast 2050 Plan to divert Mississippi River water and restore coastal wetlands in a manner that achieves a 15% reduction in the annual nitrate load from the River to the Gulf.

Objective 4: By the year 2015, reduce the 5-year running average areal extent of Gulf hypoxia to less than 1,930 square miles.

Subobjectives

4(A): Support the Action Plan for Reducing, Mitigating, and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico by facilitating research, monitoring, and modeling efforts that reduce uncertainties in the ecological and economic impacts of hypoxia.

4(B): Support the Action Plan by assisting the States of Louisiana and Mississippi in implementing voluntary actions to reduce their annual nitrogen discharge to the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River basin.

Objective 5: Foster regional stewardship and a strong sense of community and value among Gulf State residents and tourists to protect, restore, and responsibly use the resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

Subobjectives

5(A): By 2005, achieve improved regional awareness of the value of Gulf resources, key environmental issues, and actions underway or needed to solve the problems.

5(B): In 2005, support the Citizens Advisory Committee efforts to achieve improved regional awareness of the value of Gulf resources, key environmental issues, and actions underway or needed to solve the problems.